

PLAIN TALK.

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CAPTURING A HORSE THIEF.

BY BERTHA PACKARD ENGLT.

THE time of my story was years ago, when the country around our isolated home, was one expanse of prairie, sweeping in every direction as far as eye could see.

We had very few neighbors and lived fifteen miles from the nearest village. Only a few houses—and those near town—would we pass on our way thither. This town of Barton had but one railroad, recently built.

Consequently this same, broad expanse of prairie, was the very section of country that horse thieves and fugitives escaping from justice would choose, to make their flight unobserved.

Near our home ran a small, sluggish river, scarcely ever deep enough to swim a horse. A bridge spanned it on the public road, but with one other exception, no place would afford a safe crossing place. Often men and beasts would get mired, beyond their own strength of extrication, and often our cows would get in so deep—in the mud at the bottom—that a team could scarcely pull them out.

Uncle Nathan and father lived on farms adjoining, farms which, when they first put the breaking plow into them, were the only ones for miles and miles, that had been similarly treated. But they were good farms at the time of my story, with a large growth of artificial timber, which they had planted carefully, years before. These trees surrounded the dwelling-houses, and we were often told, looked very homelike and comfortable to the benighted travelers, who could see them for miles, often being guided along by their lofty tops. Many men found it necessary to frequent other and larger towns from twenty to forty miles distant, thereby having to cross the trackless prairie on their journey. Our homes, therefore, were generally sought as a safe place in which to spend the night. One day, late in the fall, news reached us that two beautiful, bay horses had been stolen from a man living near Argo, a town thirty-five miles west of Barton and on the same line of railroad. But let me say here, that if any of our few neighbors found it necessary to make a trip to Barton, it was generally known among us; so that often each family sent by the man, for provisions and mail, thereby saving unnecessary journeys. So it was with this news. Any thing important that had happened, each neighbor felt in duty bound to let the others know, at some near time. In such a way the news reached us of the horse stealing. The horses had been taken from a pasture, containing perhaps, a dozen others. A pen, built from a pile of rails near the gate, served as a corral and stood, in the morning, a sure testi-

mony that the colts had not strayed, but had been willfully caught and spirited away.

At the same time news came to us, through Uncle Nat, that two men had been staying around Barton, of mysterious appearance. One, a Dutchman who talked quite brokenly, while the other was a young man of better, and more attractive appearance. Owing to their protracted stay, the authorities of Barton decided to ascertain the business of the strangers and advise them either to go to work and act like honest men, or quit the town.

But they were saved the trouble, for upon search, the mysterious "two" had disappeared.

The next we heard of them, they were overtaken by Fred Stone, a man employed in the livery stable at Barton, while on a journey to Argo.

They were afoot and perhaps pretty tired for by the time he overtook them, they immediately struck up a bargain with Fred. He was to carry them the remainder of the distance to Argo, for a half dollar apiece. They possessed no baggage and, in Fred's own words, "looked for all the world like natural tramps." During the ride, Fred got pretty well acquainted with the Dutchman, who seemed to talk a little more than was absolutely wise.

A night or two after this, it happened that Fred Stone was at Uncle Nat's. He had driven down some wealthy doctors and merchants, who had come from the east for the express purpose of putting in a few weeks at hunting. A couple of lakes in our neighborhood were noted to the residents of Barton and vicinity for their quantity of wild



ducks, geese and swans.

Perhaps through friends, these eastern men had heard of it, for they came well equipped with tents, dogs, cooks, provisions and plenty of unemptied bottles of mysterious shape, to last an indefinite time in this wilderness. Well it was to bring these men down that day, that Fred happened to be at Uncle Nat's—a day full of excitement for the elder people and full of wonder and delight to we children, who had never seen the like before.

That evening, as he and Uncle Nat were standing conversing in the door yard, a couple of horsemen rode up near the house and calling to Uncle Nat, asked how far it was to Barton and if they were on the right road.

No sooner had Fred heard the man's voice—it was after

dark—then he cried: "I'll be bound if that a'int my Dutchman." The fellows had in fact never wholly stopped, but at the sound of Fred's voice they moved a little faster.

Uncle Nat cried:

"Hold on a minute," but they did not appear to notice it. He then cried again, "Halt! I say," but the thieves put spurs to their horses and away they ran.

Uncle Nat was constable of our county and had received orders to arrest all persons of mysterious appearance whether with horses or without.

He instantly called upon Fred to get his gun, while he ran to the stable for his horse. As he pursued them, he distinctly heard them cross the bridge over the river.

Nell, the horse Uncle rode, was one of the fastest animals for miles around, so it took but a few moments for him to see that he was gaining perceptibly upon them. As soon as distance permitted, he called:

"Halt! I say, Halt!" but only an increase of speed answered to his call. "Halt! or I will fire!" he cried again. He fired as they made no response to his command. The two barrelled gun was loaded with buckshot, which partially lodged in the flanks of the hindermost horse, one having outran his comrade.

The horses had never been ridden before and the report so startled them, that the one that was hit, stopped still, either throwing its rider, or else the thief slid from his back as Uncle fired.

The horse Uncle secured—which was but slightly wounded—and then sought for the thief who had made his escape. Finding his search fruitless for this and the remaining thief also, and not knowing in which way they had fled, Uncle concluded to wait until daylight. It had now commenced to rain heavily so Uncle Nat retraced his steps. Before reaching home however, the remaining horse came up with him, and he thus caught both stolen horses, for which a reward of twenty-four dollars had been offered. But he never saw anything of the reward, although he delivered the horses in safety. And when the case was brought before the court, he had to pay his own expenses; so it proved not to be very profitable—in this case—to capture stolen horses.

Why both thieves forsook their horses was never known nor why the uninjured horse found his way back to Uncle, but we conjectured that its rider was thrown, when it pursued its mate.

The next morning the men notified the few neighbors, of the escape of the thieves, and all turned out and sought for them far and near. No traces of them were seen, however. They had taken to the grass grown prairies, so no footprints remained as telltales. We all reached the conclusion, then, that they had made good their escape for if food did not necessitate, they could travel for many miles without human eye noting their whereabouts.

The next day passed and the greater share of the one following. I was a child at that time and, together with my sisters, had great interest in the fate of the poor thieves. Our minds pictured all manner of likenesses to what was supposed thieves must resemble, exciting ourselves almost beyond reason and suffering untold nervousness and fear in consequence. Behind every door and in every dark corner, we were afraid to look, for fear of seeing the dark eyes of one of the fugitives.

But our fear had partially subsided on this afternoon. We were all standing out in the back yard, talking and playing, when who should we see coming around the corner of the house, but a dejected looking tramp.

Strange, thief never entered our minds, for this poor mortal bore no resemblance, whatever, to the picture we had drawn in our imagination.

We scampered into the house announcing to mother, "Quick, there's a tramp acoming and where shall we hide." "Hush," mother said in commanding tones, as she opened the door, in response to a rap.

"Blease ma'am would ye pe so kind as to gif a poor man sum't to eat."

"Where are you from?" mother asked looking suspiciously at his dirty face, shoeless foot and torn clothing.

"Ma'am, Ise goin' to Nebraska. I lost my shoe in a rifer I tried to swim last night and tore my bants in de timber. Blease gif me a coop of coffee ma'am, I'm able to bay," he added by way of inducement.

"I do not wish pay," mother returned, "and I never turned any one away hungry, yet, so come in by the fire. It's getting colder fast," she added as a gust of wind shut the door with a slam.

While mother busied herself getting his lunch, the tramp crawled up near the glowing fire, shaking as with ague when the warm air fairly encircled him. His wet clothing steamed and dried as he slowly rubbed his benumbed hands together, until sleep overcame him and he nodded uncontrollably in his chair. Then with an affrighted start he would look wildly around until his eyes rested upon the partly spread table. Then he would apparently struggle to keep his eyes open, and perhaps supposed he had succeeded until he would awaken with another start.

Mother eyed him narrowly while passing to and fro. Her suspicions were instantly aroused, when she heard the foreign tongue of the tramp and she then believed it was indeed Fred Stone's "Dutchman." She quietly waited until the tramp had fallen into one of his uneasy naps, then passing into the pantry, she pulled me after her, saying:

"May, go for father as quickly as you can, but don't say a word to anyone else." With flying feet I sped over the ground, flying between the house and father, working a number of rods behind it. We hastened back to the house.

As father slipped into the room the tramp seemed greatly frightened, but when father spoke of the weather and muddy roads, he seemed a little easier.

"Pa, I wish you would get a little dry wood," mother said, as naturally as she could, everything is so wet I can scarcely make the teakettle boil.

Father passed out to the wood and mother with him, when she made known her fears. He chopped a few sticks—to allay the anxiety of the thief—which mother brought in, telling us to bring in some more when father got it chopped.

After a few resounding blows at the defenceless wood, father left it and hurried after Uncle Nat and Fred Stone. The latter had been hired by the hunters, to remain and take them around each day, in his livery rig.

Mother managed to delay the coffee heating until she saw the men approaching, when she had the stranger "set up and eat, now." So by the time they entered, the half famished fellow was swallowing his food by the huge mouthfuls and emptying his cup by a swallow or two.

"Yes," said Fred Stone, on entering "its the very identical man."

The tramp jumped to his feet in great alarm at the sound of Fred's voice, but no sooner, than Uncle placed his hand on his shoulder and said, "I arrest you in the name of the State of Iowa, on the charge of horse stealing." Then the poor thief, so completely surprised as he was, when the full import of the charge rushed over him, with the knowledge that he was "caught," broke into uncontrollable sobbing.

I knew mother and father had done just what was right, but at the sight of the poor man's tears, I cried too. It seemed too bad to have to take him, while he was under the impression that only kindness and help would he receive, under our roof. But I was ashamed of my tears and so waited until no one saw them, as I buried my head in my pillow that night, and cried long and piteously for this poor, sinful tramp. The thief supposed he was miles and miles from the place where he had been pursued, as he had traveled continually without scarcely anything to eat, and without sleep.

He had twice waded streams, but had no idea it was the same one. And had lost his shoe in the bottom of the river, as there was no chance of rescuing it. His ammunition was completely soaked so he could have offered no resistance if he had so desired it.

He willingly and even jokingly confessed all their plans. They had shipped saddles to Argo from another town miles away, and the same saddles were on the captured horses. Uncle asked him why, when he slid from his horse that night, he did not lie quietly by the roadside, and when he came up take aim—being as he was between the thief and the sky—and fire. But the thief said he thought only of escaping unseen and unheard of.

Of the fate of his comrade he knew nothing, seeing him last when the youth's horse outstripped his own during the fight.

- It is supposed, the youth, in trying to cross the Iowa river near its rise, was taken with cramps and drowned, for no news was ever heard of him, as far as I know.

The prisoner spoke very compassionately of the boy—for he was nothing more—saying it was his first offense and unwillingly undertaken too.

After clothing him comfortably in odd pieces of father's clothing they prepared to take him to the nearest town and hand him over to the proper officials.

But before leaving he presented his revolver to Uncle Nat as a memento of that night's chase, and gave mother a five dollar bill, displaying as he did so a purse well filled with money, saying as he handed to her "I will haf no use for it any more." It was all probably stolen at some former time.

But for all he tried to be jovial I knew his heart was sad. And whenever he spoke of his young companion, his voice would tremble with emotion. I really believe that grieved him more than the thought of his long imprisonment, and, however sin hardened by evil doing his heart had become, I shall always think one spot still remained alive to what he considered honorable and just.

Let us hope that within the dreary prison walls, he bitterly repented his sin and learned to believe that to do right is far better.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE DAVIS BOAT AND OAR CO.,
EDGAR A. DAVIS.

The Davis Boat and Oar Co.

BOAT building is an industry of importance in nearly every section of the country, but if it can be said to be localized at all, most assuredly it is in the region of the great lakes, and certainly no city is more advantageously located in this respect than Detroit.

At all events this city enjoys the distinction of being the home of the concern who may justly be named as the premier boat builders of America, both from the extent and character of their productions. Many of our readers probably do not need to be told that allusion is made to the DAVIS BOAT & OAR CO. for the reputation of this company is national and their row boats, steam launches, sail boats, canoes, duck boats and other sporting craft are to-day afloat on the far away waters of Tahoe, Puget Sound, Chesapeake Bay, Moosehead, the Hudson, and in fact wherever boating is a popular pastime. To justly appreciate the magnitude of the business of the Davis Boat and Oar Co. it is necessary to visit their warerooms and factory in this city. Here we find

at 12 to 18 East Atwater street a four story building 100x100 feet in dimensions containing an exhibit of from two to three hundred boats of every description, embracing canoes, row boats, family row boats, lively row boats, sail boats, hunting boats, life boats and yawls, shells, barges, steam launches and small pleasure craft in general.

These premises will be used only as display rooms and for storage purposes after the completion of the new plant of the company in the southern part of the city where they have purchased ten acres of land. The erection of this new factory will be commenced early in the coming summer. The enterprise of this company is characteristically displayed by their offer to present an elegant new steam launch valued at \$600 to the person who will make the closest guess as to its weight. This offer extends to every person in the world who makes a cash or C. O. D. purchase of the company before July 1st, 1891. This launch will be 18 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet 11 inches beam, and 24 inches deep amidship, fitted with a 1-horse power engine of the latest improved style and thoroughly equipped for use. Cuts of this launch may be had upon application to the company. Inasmuch as it takes a book of eighty pages merely to catalogue the different styles of boat and boating paraphernalia made by this company, our readers will recognize the futility of anything like a detailed description in an ordinary newspaper article. Suffice to say that the manufacturing facilities of the company are almost unlimited and there is nothing in the boat line they do not make. The company own and operate several large boat livery located at Wenona Beach on Saginaw Bay and on the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers, among which is one at Belle Island Park, Detroit, Mich., which is the largest row boat livery in the world. In this livery they have 250 boats, and in the past four years nearly 400,000 people have been carried in them without a single accident, a fact which speaks eloquently for the model and safety of their boats. The company make a specialty of supplying liveries, hotels and parks with boats and are able to quote figures on any number of boats laid down in any part of the country which no competing concern can duplicate.

We might continue almost indefinitely and yet not unduly extol the many styles of canoes, hunting boats, working boats, racing shells, life boats, sail boats, sailing canoes and pleasure craft made by the Davis Boat & Oar Co., but the handsomely illustrated catalogue issued by the company will give the reader far more accurate and complete information than is possible to incorporate in our article. It is enough to say that no one contemplating the purchase of a boat of any kind, should fail to investigate the exceptional inducements offered by this company as they unquestionably stand at the head of American boat builders with advantages as regards location, manufacturing facilities and the advanced mechanical skill in their employ which is positively unrivalled.

Daybreak.

A WIND came up out of the sea,
And said, "Oh, mists, make room for me."

It hailed the ships, and cried, "Sail on,
Ye mariners, the night is gone."

And hurried landward far away,
Crying, "Awake! it is the day."

It said unto the forest, "Shout!
Hang all your leafy banners out!"

It touched the wood-bird's folded wings,
And said, "Oh, bird, awake and sing."

And o'er the farms, "Oh, chanticleer
Your clarion blow; the day is near."

It whispered to the fields of corn,
"Bow down and hail the coming morn."

It shouted through the belfry tower
"Awake, oh, bell! proclaim the hour."

It crossed the churchyard with a sigh,
And said, "Not yet! in quiet lie."

Henry W. Longfellow.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY
MRS. N. F. PERKINS, 635 PARK AVE., N. Y.

Fancy Work.

CHROCHETED PIN-WHEEL LACE.

(Requested).

MAKE two ch. of fifteen stitches. First row, three d. c. in fourth st. of ch., ch. one, three d. c. in same, (this makes a sh.)—ch. six, three d. c. in last of ch., ch. one, three d. c. in same, turn. Second row, sh. in sh., ch. three



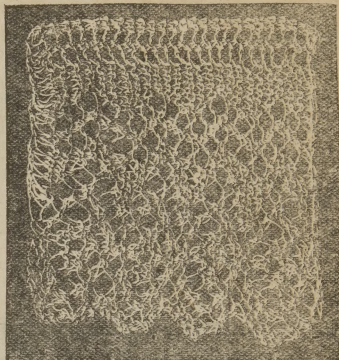
fasten with sl. st. in middle of the two rows of ch., ch. three, sh. in sh., turn. Third row, ch. three,* sh. in sh., ch. six, sh. in sh., turn. Fourth row, ch. three, like third from* to, turn. Fifth row, ch. three sh. in sh., ch. three, fasten in middle of two rows of ch., ch. three, sh. in sh., take the hook out of the work put it through the last st. of sh. in fourth row, through the st. that you took your hook from, and draw it through them, ch. ten, turn and put one sh. in sixth st. of ch. ten, this makes a l. ch. eight, fasten in last st. of sh. in first row, turn sixteen d. c. in the ch. eight, one s. c. in l., turn, ch. eight, make one d. c. in eleventh d. c. of the sixteenth in

last row, ch. two, one d. c. thirteenth, ch. two, one d. c. in fifteenth, ch. two, one d. c. in last, turn, ch. five, one d. c. in d. c. of last row, ch. two, one d. c. in next d. c., ch. two, one d. c. in next d. c. of last row, sixteen d. c. in ch. eight, one s. c. in loop repeat from* until there are eight spokes in the wheel then put seven d. c. in ch. four. Sixth row, shell in sh., ch. six, sh. in sh., turn. Seventh row, ch. three, sh. in sh., ch. six, sh. take the hook out, put it through the twelve d. c. in last spoke, through the st. you took the hook from, and draw through them, turn. Eighth row, sh. in sh., ch. three, fasten in middle of two rows of ch., ch. three, sh. in sh., turn. Ninth row, ch. three, sh. in sh., ch. six, sh. in sh., fasten the same as before, in the last d. c. of the sixteen in spoke. Proceed with the shells until there are fourteen rows then repeat from the fifth row which commences the second wheel. Fasten the wheel together with a single crochet at the points of the last two spokes in first wheel made by ch. two crochet ten more rows of shells then make the third wheel.

COBWEB LACE.

CAST on twenty-three stitches, knit across plain. First row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, p. two, tog. k. twelve, n., over, k. three, over, k. two. Second row, k. two, over, k. five, over, n., k. three, over, n., over, n., k. four over twice, p. two, tog. k. two. Third row, sl. one, over twice, p. two, tog. k. ten, n., over, k. one, n., over, k. one, over n., k. one, over k. two. Fourth row, k. two, over, k. one, n., over k. three, over n., k. one, over n., k. two, over, n., k. three, over twice, p. two tog. k. two. Fifth row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, p. two tog. k. eight, n., over, k. one, n., over, k. five, over, n., k. one, over, n., two. Sixth row, k. two, over, k. one, n., over, k. three, over, n., k. two, over, n., k. one, over, n., k. one, over, n., over, n., k. two, over twice, p. two tog. k. two. Seventh row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, p. two, tog. k. nine, over, n., k. one, over, n., k. three, n., over, k. one, n., over, k. one, n. Eighth row, cast off one, k. one, over, n., k. one, over, n., k. one, n., over, k. one, n., over, k. ten, over twice, p. two tog. k. one. Ninth row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, p. two tog. k. four, over, n., over, n.,

k. three, over, n., k. one, over, sl. one, n., pass slipped stitch over, narrow, over, k. one, n., k. one, n. Tenth row, k. two, over, n., k. three, n., over, k. twelve, over twice, p. two



tog., k. two. Eleventh row, sl. one, k. one, over twice, p. two tog. k. five, over, n., over, n., k. four, over, n., k. one, n., over, k. three. Twelfth row, cast off two, k. one, over, k. three tog., over, k. fourteen, over twice, p. two together, k. two.

PAINTED SCRIM TIDY.

THIS tidy is made from one yard of linen scrim one-half yard wide. Turn in one-half inch on sides for a hem, draw ten threads and hemstitch. One end is finished with a two inch hem, drawing ten threads for hemstitching as on



sides. To finish the other end make a knotted fringe, two and a half inches deep, leave a one inch space of scrim, draw twenty threads which gives a two inch space for drawn work knotting. Paint above drawn work a large spray of moss roses. Gather scrap in centre with old gold satin ribbon. A yard and a half of two inch ribbon being plenty for good sized bows.

TURKISH PIN CUSHION.

MAKE cushion five and a half inches square of stout muslin and fill same with bran. Take a piece of yellow china silk eleven inches square sew plain on sides



gathering fullness in corners for puffs, cover centre with four inch turkish embroidered square, sewing down each corner of the square in the centre on side of cushion.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe?

COFFEE FOR TWO.

Two and a half tablespoonsful of coarsely ground coffee, one-third Mocha to two-thirds Java. Scald the coffee boiler thoroughly and wipe, put coffee in while still hot, add half a cup of water that has just reached the boiling point—not been boiling for an hour—and boil this for five minutes. Add two cups of boiling water and allow to boil up once. Then stand on back of stove and cover closely that every bit of steam is shut in. When ready to serve pour a tablespoonful of ice cold water in and strain through a wire strainer.

H. M. H. C.

TEA.

Buy one yard of tarleton and make it into tiny bags that will just hold one teaspoonful of tea, tie tightly, and keep in a tin or glass can. When ready to serve put one bag in each cup and just cover with water that is boiling, *just* boiling, cover the cups and allow to stand for five minutes or longer, this depends on *how strong* the various members like their tea, now have the teapot brought to the table filled with fresh boiling water, and fill each cup from this, removing the bags with small tongs—if you have them. A little practice and each person will be suited.

H. M. H. C.

FRIED POTATOES.

Peel and slice, stand in cold salt water ten minutes, put on stove in boiling water and boil hard fifteen minutes, drain and shake hard, and turn into a pan of boiling butter. Toss constantly with a fork until golden brown. Drain and serve at once.

H. M. H. C.

WHEAT GRIDDLES.

At night take one cup skim or sour milk and mix in enough flour to make a very thin batter. Beat perfectly smooth. Beat in a teaspoonful of salt, a fresh egg, a half cup of hot butter and a pinch of saleratus. In the morning beat hard again and add a little rich milk or cream and a pinch of saleratus in a teaspoonful of boiling water. Stand ten minutes. Save the remains and use next night, and so on, as each time they improve.

H. M. H. C.

CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE.

Two and one-half cups of flour, one heaping teaspoonful of Royal Baking Powder, one cup of sugar, two eggs, two tablespoonsful of butter, milk well; one cup of milk, bake in jelly tins.

FILLING FOR CAKE.—Six tablespoonsful of grated chocolate, two tablespoonsful of sugar, and two spoonsful of boiling water. Set dish in top of tea kettle and stir till smooth and glossy.

CHOCOLATE BLANC-MANGE.

Soak one-half package of Nelson's Gelatine in three cups of milk for two hours, then place in a double boiler, scrape fine two sticks of chocolat-Menier and put in a small tin pan over a boiling tea kettle of water, add two tablespoonsful of boiling water and two tablespoonsful of powdered sugar, stir till smooth, then stir it into the milk, cook three minutes. Strain, turn into moulds and set away to harden.

BLIND HARE.

Chop and mix together three pounds of lean veal and

three pounds of the round of beef, (both uncooked), then add six eggs well beaten, a pint of bread crumbs, a grated nutmeg, two teaspoonsful of salt, a teaspoonful of ground cinnamon and saltspoonful of black pepper. Mix these all well together and form into a square loaf, sprinkle it with bread crumbs and bake in a moderate oven for three hours, basting every fifteen minutes with melted butter. When cold, cut into thin slices and serve with lettuce leaves and mayonnaise dressing.

HAM CROQUETTES.

One cupful of finely-chopped cooked ham, one of bread crumbs, two of hot mashed potatoes, one large tablespoonful of butter, three eggs, a speck of cayenne. Beat the ham, cayenne, butter and two of the eggs into the potato. Let the mixture cool slightly and shape it like croquettes. Roll in the bread crumbs, dip in beaten egg and again in crumbs, put in the frying basket and plunge into boiling fat, cook two minutes. Drain and serve.

BAKED DRIED LIMA BEANS.

Soak over night and pare, boil them, then put them in a yellow dish with butter, pepper, and salt, bake until brown.

CORA JANE.

Fashion Notes.

IRISH poplins are in demand for the Louis Quinze coats, and plain skirts were never more fashionable.

Perfectly lovely is no longer the fashionable superlative. Say a thing is just sweet and you have reached the pinnacle of praise.

An effort is made to revive perfumed note paper. The boxes are ornamented with flowers, indicated by the scent, and the series includes the violet, lily of the valley, mignonne, heather, heliotrope, iris, sweet lavender, and hyacinth.

Matching a color does not make a symphony of color. A one tone toilet or costume is not a color study, but a monotony. It is the brown felt hat with a little velvet and less bronze trimming, the dark dress finished with another shade the dull brown shoes, the lighter gloves and furs and still lighter millinery that makes harmony and height.

Princess dresses are coming in again and the faultlessly formed graceful women will rejoice. A beautiful dress recently finished in the universally popular gray and yellow, was a gray bongaline, bordered with straight rows of gold braid, and having a bertha and full puffed sleeves of yellow crepon.

Buttons are once more beginning to assert themselves on outdoor jackets and fortunate is the woman who has treasured up old and rare sets of them. The Princess of Wales has a penchant for artistic buttons, and has the finest collection of jewelled gold, silver and carved buttons in the world, including a set consisting of crimson carbuncles set in oxidized silver, recently presented by her sister the Empress of Russia.

The Papers Say So.

MRS. HODGSON BURNETT, is said to be the most popular woman writer in Paris, and many of her books have been translated into French.

Mrs. Stanford, wife of the senator, has given one hundred thousand dollars for the maintenance of the five kindergartens she has instituted in California.

Miss Minerva Parker, the Philadelphia architect, received the contract for the Isabella Pavilion to be erected on the lake front in Chicago for the World's Fair Isabella Exhibition.

Miss Annie Howard, daughter of the late Charles L. Howard, of New Orleans, built a memorial to her father, and instead of a monolith she chose a library and dedicated it to the women of New Orleans. The building is a marvel of beauty, after the Roman style, and cost one hundred thousand dollars. It contains twelve thousand volumes, has an endowment fund of two hundred thousand dollars, and all the assistant librarians are women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The readers of PLAIN TALK are invited to write letters, ask questions of general interest on fancy work or housekeeping. Send directions of lace and fancy work.

DEAR READERS OF "PLAIN TALK":—I am so glad to have the opportunity to tell you something about our "Ten Minutes a Day Society" or the "T. M. D. S." as we are known. We think we have found a way by which we can do a great amount of good and yet spend little time or money. We all wish to do something to cheer or help some one but find very often that we have neither money nor time. About four years ago two college girls inspired by a story of Mrs. Sangster's, determined to put their desires for well-doing into actual work and so devoted ten minutes of their leisure time, daily, to benevolent work which in this special case was making children's clothing. This was the beginning of the "T. M. D. S." Soon some of their friends joined them and the circle has been widening ever since until now we number over three hundred with an increase in membership all the time. All active members conscientiously spend ten minutes each day in benevolent work which of course is of many kinds although sewing, knitting, making scrap-books, etc., form an important part of the work. Every six months the Society sends a barrel to some worthy institution and our contributions are always very much appreciated. Last November we sent three barrels to the "Home for the Friendless," and besides this many of the members gave their work near their own homes and others sent their contributions separately. Although we always wish help for the Society's barrel the members are given the privilege of giving their work whenever and wherever they wish. Sometimes branch societies are formed and of course the members can work very nicely together. Besides active members, we have a number of life and honorary members. Any person becomes an honorary member by the payment of one dollar and this amount paid for five consecutive years or five dollars given at one time constitutes any one a life member. Each active member pays a fee of ten cents on joining the Society and ten cents annually. This is but a trifling sum but when all do their part there is sufficient to liquidate the expenses of the Society, such as expressage, printing, etc. Each member receives a circular every six months which gives a report for that length of time.

The Society is in good working order having a President, Secretary and Treasurer, Vice-President and Asst. Secretary. These form a consulting committee.

I fear the boys will think that this Society is not for them but they are mistaken for boys belong and we are always glad to welcome them. We need their help. I hope I may hear from many readers of PLAIN TALK and we give you all a cordial invitation to join us and see how much you can do for others by using ten minutes each day. If those who wish to join will send me the membership fee (ten cents) I will send them a pledge card and a certificate of their membership. I will be very glad to hear from any or all of you and if there is anything further you would like to know about the Society I will gladly tell you. If you think to enclose a stamp for reply we will appreciate it very much.

Yours,

West Kortright, New York. MRS. SARABELLE BAYLES.

DEAR PLAIN TALK READERS:—Can you give me a few hints in regard to entertaining eight or ten evening callers. I read that it is no longer fashionable to show the albums containing pictures of friends or stereoscopic views. Now what can we do? Will not some one who knows how to entertain and who has the faculty of making one and all comfortable with just what to do. How can odds and ends of worsted and Germantown be used? How I wish the PLAIN TALK ladies who are interested in minerals and who live in localities where minerals are found would write about them.

NEW SUBSCRIBER.

Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

Alta L. Lyon, Irons, Carl Junction, Mo.—Will exchange twenty handsome designs for painting or embroidery for twenty postal cards.

T. Irving Brown, Box 246, Red Bank, N.J.—Wishes to exchange square cut post-marks for other post-marks. Send list.

Mrs. Metta G. Tompkins, Warsaw, Mo.—A collection of handsome studies for painting on china to exchange for floral, landscape or marine studies for oil painting.

Miss H. A. Heaton, Charlton, Saratoga Co., N. Y.—Has cinnamon vine and bulbs, to exchange for Oregon semi-precious arrow points, or choice minerals 2x3½ inches or larger, labeled with name and locality. Write what you have in closing stamp for reply.

Mrs. Nettie S. Douglass, Albion P. O., Fairfield Co., S. C.—Has music to exchange for silk, satin, or velvet scraps for crazy patchwork.

Mrs. F. W. Wallace, 635 Park Ave., New York City.—Has cloth bound books to exchange for canceled United States postage stamps.

TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

How to Make Photographs.

By GOTTHELF PACH, 935 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

THE latest and simplest way is to buy a Kamaret Camera. All you have to do is to point your camera at your object, press the button, and the manufacturer or any professional photographer will do the rest at a nominal expense.

But for those who are interested in making photographs, as professional and amateur photographers do it, I can give a word of advice.

To commence with and learn the rudiments, you want to get a good but plain outfit, such as Messrs Anthony & Co. of New York sell for \$7.50. This includes a camera, lens, and tripod. The size plate needed for this is 4 x 5, and will cost 65 cents per doz. Now all you need is a black cloth, so that you can see on the ground glass what your subject is, and you are ready to take your picture.

With each outfit you will get a book of directions, and if you will be careful and do just as is stated in this little pamphlet, there is no reason why you should not be able to make pretty pictures.

You can also find in this book full directions for such materials as you will need to finish the plate, or develop it as it is called, and also for printing and mounting the photograph so that it will be admired.

You must not expect to do all kinds of work with one lens or instrument, for some lenses are made to take landscapes, groups, and buildings, while there are others which are made to take rooms, and still another kind to take portraits. As the landscape lens is the most useful, that is the one that is generally supplied; and as you gain the knowledge you will slowly add the things you need.

The greatest care must be used in protecting the plates which are used from exposure to white light. By that I mean you must take the wrappings off in a room lit by a red light, the rays of which do not affect the plates, and in this room or closet you want to transfer the plate to the plate-holder. You cannot be too careful to exclude white light, for a little light coming in under or over the door, or through a crack, may spoil all your plates which are uncovered, and no amount of care afterwards will bring them back to their original state. So beware of white light in your dark room.

In taking your picture, never have the sun shine in your camera or lens, for that will cause fog. The lens cannot see any more than the human eye can if the sun shines on it. Sunlight on a building or landscape always enhances its beauty, but too much sunlight produces flat results, and produces lifeless pictures, so take the view when there are shadows, yes, long shadows, as you will see on every house and view if you will watch your chance.

The time you must give to take the picture depends somewhat on the light. Most pictures taken in the sunlight are taken in about one or two seconds, not more, unless the subject is dark, or the place is very shady.

But these are things you must learn by practice. Experience is the best teacher, and if you have an adviser who has the knowledge to guide you, you may have much pleasure from your labor even though you do not become an expert.

To all beginners I would say buy a cheap outfit with a book of directions. Study the directions well before you go ahead. If you do not succeed, try again. Write to your stock depot for advice, or to me, and we will try and put you on the track.

WE have received a copy of PLAIN TALK. It is without doubt one of our best exchanges. The various departments of this paper are well conducted and the paper itself has a very neat and attractive appearance.—*Manchester, (N. H.) High School Echo.*



THE HALL TYPEWRITER.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Word Building Contest.

THE March contest in this department closed April 10, and it was one of the best in several months, both in the number of lists received and the closeness of them. South-ernly was the base word, and while it is not an obsolete word, many omitted it. The base word is always allowable unless when obsolete. The prizes in this contest are awarded as follows:

First prize to J. W. Falkner, Freeport, Pa., 414 correct words; original list, 434.

Second prize to Miss Annie Blackie, Besemer, N. Y., 409 correct words; original list, 414.

Third prize to Albert Pennell, West Gray, Me., 409 correct words; original list, 417.

Miss Blackie and Mr. Pennell were tied for the second prize, but it was awarded the former on account her list being the neatest and containing the fewest errors; in fact, it was the nearest perfect of any list ever received, and without very neatly written. [No third prize was offered, but the publishers came to the rescue and added one.]

Other lists were received containing correct words as follows: Mrs. T. N. McClelland and J. W. Stowell, 408; Emma L. Hauck and R. M. Fletcher, 407.

The Next Word-Building Contest.

ANOTHER splendid prize is offered in the word-building contest, and we hope all who are in any way interested in PLAIN TALK will take pains to spread the news of this contest among their friends, and try to induce them to subscribe and participate in the interesting contest.

The words selected for the base words are

BLACK AND WHITE.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.
 2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
 3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
 4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some one of their meanings.
 5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
 6. Words of the same meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
 7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.
- All lists must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetized, and the words numbered consecutively.
- The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the list, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
- In case of a close contest, the number of errors and the general neatness of the list will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

The contest will close on July 10th, and the result will be announced in the August issue. At the request of some subscribers a longer time is given than usual, in order that all may have a fair and equal opportunity to work.

The first prize will be a "Hall" Typewriter, valued at \$30.00, which will be sent from the office of the manufacturer direct to the fortunate subscriber. An illustration of the Typewriter is given on this page, and we append the following regarding it:

The accompanying illustration represents a Hall typewriter. It is claimed to be perfectly simple in construction, light in weight, easily used, and in every way a most desirable machine. W. D. Howells, the novelist, says of it: "I wish to express my very great satisfaction with the Hall typewriter. Impression and alignment are both more perfect than in any other typewriter that I know, and it is simply a pleasure to use it. It is delightfully simple and manageable." Celia Thaxter, the poetess, writes: "I find the Hall typewriter excellent; light, easily worked, requiring much less exertion than any other. The liability to mistakes is also less. It is a great advantage to have so compact a keyboard, and to print directly from the type. I have used other typewriters, and do not hesitate to pronounce the Hall typewriter greatly superior in all respect to any I have seen."

Another Method of Mind-Reading.

EDITOR PLAIN TALK:

I THINK the following way of "mind reading" with numbers is easier than the one given in the PLAIN TALK of January.

Let a person select any number they may wish. Multiply it by two; you may then have them add any number you may wish. Divide by two and subtract the first number they thought of; then you can tell them what their answer is by the following: The answer will be half the number you tell them to add:

EXAMPLE.

$(3) \times 2 = 6; 6 + 20 = 26; 26 \div 2 = 13; 13 - (3) = 10.$

10 is half the number you told them to add

$(8) \times 2 = 16; 16 + 12 = 28; 28 \div 2 = 14; 14 - (8) = 6.$

It will be seen that you do not have to ask any questions whatever.—HENRY E. GANDER.

Another Old Puzzle.

"If from six you take nine and from nine take ten.

Ye write now this puzzle explain,

And if fifty from forty be taken there then

Will just half a dozen remain.

Special Notice.

SUBSCRIBERS who are in arrears cannot compete for the different prizes offered. Will not those who have not paid up for the current year take this as a gentle hint, and remit 50 cents, or \$1.00 if they wish the use of the Exchange and Sales department?

SAYS the *Chronicle* of Hampton, Iowa: "PLAIN TALK is published monthly by Plain Talk Publishing Company, No 5 Beekman street, New York; price fifty cents a year. Its pages are packed as full of rich things as a nut is of meat. It is an endless supply of amusement and instruction among young people."

A Special Natural History Prize Offer.

AS a special and attractive prize offer, we are glad to announce that on June 15th, we will award \$3.00 WORTH OF BIRDS' EGGS,

to be selected from the fine stock of Mr. Frank H. Lattin of Albion, N. Y., to the subscriber to PLAIN TALK who sends us before that date the best essay of not more than 800 words on "My Experience as a Collector." A second prize, \$2.00 worth of eggs, will be given. We hope to have a lively contest, and are sure that the winners will be well rewarded for their efforts.

S MITH AND FORBES, wholesale and retail stamp merchants, of Belleville, Mich., write, "Will increase space soon, as we find PLAIN TALK an excellent advertising medium."

PLAIN TALK

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT

No. 5 BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK,

BY

PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY

(INCORPORATED.)

The EXCHANGE and MART of Boston, and the STAMP WORLD and HUBBARD'S MAGAZINE of Lake Village, N. H., have been combined with this paper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

IN ADVANCE.

Per Annum, 20 Cents 1 Six Months, 12 Cents 25 Cents.
To Foreign Countries, 75 cents per annum.

The above rates apply to subscriptions, pure and simple; if the privilege of the Exchange and Sale Department is desired the price is \$1.00 per year—i. e., 50 cents in addition to the regular subscription. See also notice at head of that department.

PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are so requested, but *unless so requested* it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this fact. We have no desire to force the paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1891.

ANOTHER valuable typewriter is offered as a prize in the word building contests, this time the "New Model Hall." Full particulars and a handsome engraving of the machine will be found on another page. The prize is a large one, and we hope every subscriber who takes even the slightest interest in such matters will compete for it. Those who are not subscribers can send in their lists accompanied by 50 cents for a year's subscription, or by \$1.00 if they wish the privileges of the exchange and sale department.

What Boys Should Know at Eighteen.

A YOUTH of eighteen, who is to have the best chances, should know how to study, and how to do it with enthusiasm also, because he has learned the lesson at least five years before.

Enthusiasm, guided and controlled by knowledge as to the use of the powers, is the true life of a living man, alive with the spiritual forces. Everything else is in sleep or is dead.

I make my starting point and my guiding thought the thought that he should learn how to study and should gain enthusiasm at the beginning.

In the first place, as I think, the study of language may be most hopefully and successfully started in these earliest years. The boy moves joyously where the man finds only labor and weariness. The children of our households to-day may gain the same that we gained at twenty-five, and far more than we gained when they are ten or twelve; and the progress is like the joyful song of their childhood, when they are led along the rational method. They grow up into French or German, as it were, as they grow up into English and talk and read and sing in these languages just as they do in their own. Why should they not breathe in enthusiasm with every breath of their learning? It was with a great price, indeed, that we obtained this freedom. But they were free born.

Let me say here that, in my judgment, every boy who has the best chances ought to have the mastery of the French or German language—I should say of both—before he is eighteen years of age—a mastery kindred to that which he has of English. He should have such a knowledge of Greek and Latin as will mean power in and over those languages, and will enable him to read them with ease and with satisfaction as he enters upon his college course. The man who knows the ancient languages as he ought to know them, will never contend against their holding a place in the education of all widely educated and roundly educated men.

The boy who has the best chances ought, in the years between twelve and eighteen, to be set forward on his course in history and the beginnings, at least, of the literature of his own language.

My feeling is that the boys who have the best chances should know something of music, and should, at least, see the opening of the door toward art studies. The opinion is now well established, I suppose, that all persons can be instructed in vocal music with a measure of success. I believe that the same thing can be accomplished in the line of instrumental music.

That the mathematical studies should be pursued energetically before the youth has reached the age of which we are speaking, I may add, is admitted by all. The men of the former generations and the men of our day agree at this point.—*President Timothy Dwight.*

What Shall I Do?

THAT question is vital to the big boy who is now for the first time called to choose some way of making his own way in the world. In reply Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, in his book "Oats and Wild Oats," says: "If you have a decided taste, a special aptitude for a particular profession or business, you should be governed by it provided it be a business or profession for which there is any demand." We think the first preposition of the wise sentence might safely be dispensed with. There is no *if* in the case. With very rare exceptions boys have a special aptitude for some business or profession. There is a little niche somewhere in this big world for which they were made and into which they will exactly fit. There are many misfits. Ministers stand in pulpits to-day with no power to arrest attention and impress impatient hearers, a burden to themselves and the denomination to which they belong, who might have succeeded notably as merchants or mechanics or farmers. There are lawyers whose lives have been one long disappointment, whose days have been days of discontent, who might have won at the carpenter's bench or blacksmith's anvil. There are mechanics whose lives have been a struggle for a bare subsistence, who might have been prosperous and happy on the farm. And there are farmers, merchants, physicians, architects, editors, teachers, and bankers whose business and professional life has been an utter failure because of lack of adaptation to their chosen calling.

We should not consider it a waste of time, therefore, when a young man experiments a little before definitely setting down to his life work. One of the most skillful and successful architects we know was called a most fitful and vacillating boy. Before he was twenty he had worked on a farm, spent some months in a foundry, had been a dry goods clerk, a printer, a jeweler, a carpenter, and a student of medicine. He seemed to have no taste for any of these. Finally he entered the office of an architect and builder, and was a success from the very start. We would have a boy spend ten years finding the place for which he is thoroughly adapted, though he should change his business every six months, rather than have him start wrong. A wrong start means an up-hill road, worry, disappointment, failure, and a gloomy old age.

What shall I do? Follow your bent, my boy. Do the things the very doing of which will bring you delight. Avoid friction. There is no slavery in congenial toil. Compared with it idleness is abject slavery.—*Epworth Herald.*

Stray Notes.

IGNORANCE is not disgraceful if one is trying his best to learn, but like poverty it is very inconvenient.

An old philosopher said: He never once regretted having held his tongue, but very often felt sorry for having spoken.

If you have built castles in the air your work need not be lost; that is where they should be; now put foundations under them.—THOREAU.

The man who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than another has by his words. Character is like bells which ring out sweet music, and which, when touched accidentally even, resound with sweet music.

THE

American Archaeological Association.

President, A. F. BERLIN, Allentown, Pa.
 Vice-President, Dr. D. S. MCARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.
 Secretary, A. B. FARNHAM, Burlington, Vt.
 Treasurer, E. J. SHERIDAN, 255 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
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 Counterfeit Detector,
 Board of Trustees, Jos. WINGELSSWORTH, Wilmington, Del.; E. J. ROCKWOOD,
 19 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FASCHER, West Winsted, Conn.

Secretary's Report.

UNFORTUNATELY I have received no additional applications for membership. The following persons will receive their cards, etc. on payment of their dues:

NEW MEMBERS.

H. W. Seal, Borns Path, Va.
 Alexander E. Smith, Box 80, Jonesville, Va.
 A. C. Gruhlke, Waterloo, Ind.
 Charles F. Causey, Sartartia, Miss.
 As the collecting season has begun we may hope to hear of some new finds from some of our members. Perhaps friend Perkins will make some more delightful excursions to the shell heaps and give us an account of them.
 A. B. FARNHAM, Secretary.

Archaeological Chatter.

IN last number of PLAIN TALK I told its readers how Mr. Catlin, in his rambles, saw the Apache Indians make their arrow-points. I shall in this issue quote what Col. C. C. Jones and others have to say on this interesting matter. Mr. Jones in his "Antiquities of the Southern Indians," shows on plate IX of his very valuable work forty-one different forms of arrow-points all from the Southern States, and remarks on p. 257: "The arrow and spear points of the Southern Indians, as a general rule, are more beautiful than those manufactured by tribes who inhabit the northern latitudes." My experience in arrow collecting has proven this to be a fact. Here in the North we did not have so fine material as is found in the West and South. It is then obvious why arrow points from there are always finer. He says further: "as the use of iron was entirely unknown among the primitive peoples of this region—the South—we are consequently compelled to the belief that the Indians fashioned these spear and arrow-heads by chipping them with implements of stone. It may be that the serrated edges, and perhaps some of the more delicate arrow-heads, were formed with the aid of instruments of bone, ivory, or horn, as is the case of those manufactured by the western Esquimaux tribes. This, however, is hardly probable, although Capt. John Smith, in his sixth voyage, speaking of the Virginia Indians, says: "His arrow head he quickly maketh with a little bone which he ever weareth at his bracet, of a splint of a stone or glasse, in the form of a heart."

We are of opinion that the Southern Indians flaked their flint implements by percussion and not by pressure. The latter method might answer with obsidian, but it would prove an endless and futile process if quartz, chert, jasper, and flint are the materials used in the manufacture.

Col. Jones errs: I have made by pressure beautiful little points out of jasper and of horn-stone which he calls flint, with ease. I however cannot say the same for quartz and quartzite. It is next to impossible to work with pressure the last two minerals.

In 1860. Hon. Caleb Lyon communicated to the American Ethnological Society, see Bulletin of the American Ethnological Society, Vol. 1, p. 39, New York, 1860-61, an account of the manufacture of arrow-heads of flint, glass, obsidian, and other materials by the Shasta Indians of California. "The Shasta Indian seated himself on the floor, and, placing the stone anvil upon his knee, which was of compact talcose slate, with one blow of his agate chisel he separated the obsidian pebble into two parts, then giving another blow to the fractured side, he split off a slab a fourth of an inch in thickness. Holding the piece against the anvil with the thumb and finger of the left hand, he commenced a series of continuous blows, every one of which chipped off fragments of the brittle substance. It gradually assumed the required shape, after finishing the base of the arrow-head (the whole being

a little over an inch in length), he began striking gentler blows every one of which I expected would break it into pieces, yet, such was their adroit application, his skill and dexterity, that in little over an hour he produced a perfect obsidian arrow-head. I then requested him to carve me one from the remains of a broken porter bottle, which (after two failures), he succeeded in doing. He gave us a reason for his ill success, he did not understand the grain of the glass. No sculptor ever handled a chisel with greater precision, or more carefully measured the weight and effect of every blow, than this ingenious Indian; for, even among them, arrow making is a distinct trade or profession, which many attempt, but in which few attain excellence. He understood the capacity of the material he wrought, and, before striking the first blow by surveying the pebble, he could judge of its availability as well as the sculptor judges of the perfection of a block of Parian. In a moment, all that I had read upon this subject, written by learned and speculative antiquarians of the hardening of copper for the working of flint axes, spears, chisels, and arrow-heads vanished before the simple mechanical process." Lieut. Beckwith (see "Report of Explorations for a Route for the Pacific Railroad," 1854, p. 43), in 1854, saw a Pah-Ute Indian, seated on the ground, make from a piece of round bone, one end of which was semispherical with a small notch in it—as if worn by a thread—one sixteenth of an inch deep, an arrow-head which was very sharp and piercing, and in all respects similar to those in general use among the Indians of that region. He says: "The skill and rapidity with which it was made, without a blow, but by simply breaking the sharp edges with the creased bone by the strength of his hands—for the crease merely served to prevent the instrument from slipping, affording no leverage—were remarkable."

A West Virginia Stone Pipe.

THERE is in the writers' collection an interesting pipe of which a rude full sized drawing is given. This pipe was taken from an Indian grave some three miles below Berlin, in Hacker's Creek Valley, Lewis Co., W. Va., by a boy who, guided by a dream was prospecting for a "set of silver spoons, and while digging at a depth of about one foot—this thing (the pipe) fell down." Search for "spoons"



was then abandoned; and nothing is known in regard to further contents of the grave, which the writer contemplates re-opening it. By many it was thought to have been a "charm or ornament, worn suspended about the neck by a string," while others contended it was the "head of a war club," and in proof of its having seen service as an ancient head breaker, certain dark red spots discernible on its surface were pointed out as "blood stains," the ghostly trace of some tragical event in long ago Indian life.

The pipe is of fine grit, cleavable brown sandstone. Although the stone is hard, and tolerably compact, the lamina can be traced the entire length of top and front of pipe. The evident design of the maker was to represent the head and beak of a hawk, eagle, or other bird of prey, and how far he succeeded, the pipe alone will testify. Extending back from the line like depression running from angle at top of head, to curvature of throat, the surface is slightly raised. Running parallel with this line, and on the raised surface, are seven indentations or pits, in miniature the veritable cups of the familiar "Cup Stones." These features

(identical on either side) are the only attempt at ornamentation. The front portion of head and back is oval, and tapers gradually to a rounded edge at point of back; while the throat and under portion is slightly oval, but not edged, which gives the beak a very natural and cymbiform shape. The stem and bowl perforations are of nearly the same dimensions, and are funnel-formed.

Weight of pipe is $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and it measures one inch through thickest portion of head. Has any other member of the A. A. A. a pipe similar to this one?

L. V. McWHORTER, *Berlin, W. Va.*

Frauds.

RECENTLY a friend in Colorado, knowing my interest in Archaeological matters, sent me two fine points mounted as scarf pins. They were in point of finish and symmetry the very finest that I had ever seen. One was made of chalcedony and the other of carnelian, and so perfect were they that I began to be a little doubtful of them, and to satisfy myself took them to Prof. F. W. Putnam at the Peabody Academy of Science at Cambridge, Mass. After examining them carefully he returned them to me with the remark that they were genuine frauds, and more than that, they were ground out on a wheel. And upon examining them with a glass, I found that such was the case. And the fact being known striations were plainly to be seen with the naked eye. I naturally felt somewhat concerned about the rest of my small Oregon points, but on looking them over carefully I failed to find any but chipped specimens.

The idea was a new one to me, and I began to wonder how many more grind-stone specimens there were in circulation, and how many more collectors had fine pieces in their cabinets, of which they were proud, and which they exhibited to their friends as the work of the Indians. I think it would be well for the members of the 3 A's to look their collections over and know what they have.—C. A. PERKINS.

Association of an Ornithologists.

A NUMBER of the Ornithologists of Washington, D. C., and vicinity met on April 17th, with the object of organizing. The meeting was held at F. S. Webster's studio of taxidermy on Pennsylvania Ave., and a partial organization effected.

The following officers were elected:

Pres., Rev. J. H. Langille, Kensington, Md.
Vice Pres., W. H. Aspinwall, 1305 Riggs St., Washington, D. C.

Secty., A. B. Farnham, Bennings, D. C.
Board of Corr. Secretaries: Chairman, W. A. Menitte, 118 Maryland Ave., N. E. Washington, D. C.
Treas. and other Corr. Sectys. to be filled.

The above name was determined on and another meeting appointed in two weeks, when an Association Organ will be selected, and other matters perfected. The main object of the Association, is the effective study of bird life by ways and means adapted to persons not professional naturalists. Corresponding members are desired everywhere, especially those who are isolated in regard to companions in this interesting study. Persons so situated gather much information which is fresh to many ornithologists.

The headquarters of the Association being in Washington, it has full access to the collections and library of the Smithsonian Institution, and it can afford its members the advantage of identification, comparison, and much information from the volumes of eminent naturalists. Those wishing more information regarding the Association and membership in the same will please address the Corresponding Secretary or any of the officers.

A. B. FARNHAM, Secty.

"Plain Talk" for June.

THE next number of PLAIN TALK, promises to be an especially interesting one. It will contain the announcement of the Prize Story contest, several new prize offers, and much other matter of special interest to every reader. Look out for it.

NUMISMATICS.

CHARLES T. TATMAN, - - - EDITOR,
93 PIEDMONT ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

THE American Numismatic Association! Collectors of coins are waking up to the fact that they need a national society. Let all who desire to band the body of collectors together with fraternal ties express themselves through PLAIN TALK.

Mr. Mulford Jenkins, of Rensselaerville, N. Y., one of the best known collectors and dealers in the Empire State, writes to the Numismatic editor as follows: "Among other items of interest which I note in your column is the suggestion of a coin association or society, which shall include some of the collectors who are not so 'advanced' as those of the older society. As the proposed society will no doubt have among its members dealers as well as collectors, I wish to express to you, editorially, my willingness to aid in establishing any association looking toward the 'fraternization' of the great body of collectors scattered throughout the United States, from Massachusetts to Oregon. I shall be glad at any time to have you keep me posted if any move is made or any meeting called or contemplated."

The Numismatist is still hustling for the A. N. A. Keep up the good work, Brother Heath!

One of the most pleasant collectors upon whom I have the pleasure of calling is Dr. A. W. Rolf Pihlgren of this city. The doctor was born and educated in Sweden, where he also commenced his collecting. The other day he showed me two magnificent works on coins which any collector would be proud to have in his library. The first was a book printed for T. Snelling in London, 1753, and entitled "A View of the Gold, Silver, and Copper Coin and Coinage of England from Henry III. to the Present Time." The book contains several thousand copper plate engravings of coins. It was issued at the price of £4. Doctor Pihlgren secured it for \$35.00. The other book was the famous "History of Louis (XIV.) the Great by the Medals, Decorations, and the Mementoes." It was issued in 1689 by Pere Claude Francois Menestrier, "with the privilege of the king." The fly-leaf bears a written inscription in French, indicating that the book was presented June 6, 1690, to Echeurid Caer, by the Marquis of Brezoles. This book is quoted as a standard work, and is very rare. Dr. Pihlgren has been offered \$45 for it.

A Boston coin dealer says that there are five times as many numismatists in that city as there were eight years ago.

Owing to the existence of dangerous counterfeits of the two-dollar certificates a new series will be issued, the new bills to bear a portrait of the late Secretary Windom.

The Boston Record is authority for the statement that Mr. L. G. Parmelee has a collection almost as good as the one sold last summer, which netted him \$30,000.

Mr. Henry Chase, of Haverhill, Mass., has a fine collection of coins, which contains a set of Indian gold coins not to be found even in the cabinet of the British Museum.

The idea of a common standard dollar among all the American republics is again being discussed, this time with prospect of a successful issue.

Those collectors who do exchanging by mail will be sorry to learn of the death of Mr. H. W. Austin, of Brockton, Mass. Mr. Austin formerly lived in Malden, and while there his name was frequently seen in the exchange columns of coin papers.

Is coin collecting the coming fad? The science of numismatics has its permanent devotees, of course, but we judge from recent newspaper articles that a fashionable "craze for coins" is possibly on the way. Let it come! Collectors, stir the matter up!

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

F. L. H., Hyde Park, Mass.—Your coin is a Spanish dollar of 1813. It is worth less than a U. S. dollar.

W. T. Rich, Cottage Home, Tenn.—One of your specimens is a Peruvian 8-real piece, worth \$9.35. The other is a French 50 centimes of the reign of Louis Philippe. Face value, 10 cents.

R. P. Durfee, Putnam, Conn.—Your coin is probably a poor specimen of the Swiss 10 centimes, worthless in such condition.

PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

J. W. SCOTT'S "Best" stamp album can now be seen by the Philadelphia collectors at the store of John Wanamaker, he recently having placed a large order for them with the publishers.

A writer in the *New Hampshire Philatelist* recently stated that "the first stamp paper issued in this country was the *Philatelic Journal of America* in 1885." This statement is on a par with another in the same article where it says; "The system of postage stamps now in use was first advocated by Rowland Hill in 1837." The first stamp paper issued in this country, of which we have record, was the *Stamp Collector's Record*, published by S. Allan Taylor in December, 1864, twenty-one years before the *P. J. of A.* was started by Mr. Mekeel. The *Record* survived forty-four numbers and then expired, but the publisher still lives, and he no doubt often thinks of that first philatelic paper. The statement quoted above is a sample of much of the matter appearing in some of the stamp papers, and is it any wonder that they get little support. The philatelic press is supposed to enlighten its readers, but in many cases it only seems to show the ignorance of its authors.

Mr. August Lehmann, of Paterson, N. J., has retired from the stamp business, and his fine collection will be sold under the direction of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., on April 21st and 22nd, and April 28th and 29th, one week intervening between the two parts.

It seems to be an established fact that Philately will be represented at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1892, the American Philatelic Association having appointed a committee for that purpose. At a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society, New York, another committee was appointed from that body to co-operate with them toward having a good display. The latter committee consists of A. R. Rogers, Henry Clotz, and Alvah Davison.

Collectors in these days often wonder how the pursuit was carried on in the years before catalogues and stamp papers were issued, as, strange as it may seem, this of course was done, the collectors being first, and the papers the natural outcome to supply needed information. An exceedingly interesting paper on this subject is contributed to the *Post Office* by Mr. Charles Gregory, a leading collector of the metropolis, and one well capable of doing the subject full justice. "Thirty Years of Stamp Collecting" is the title of the paper, and to any one interested in the early history of the pursuit, a perusal of the article will be a rare treat.

Judging from the number of our philatelic societies reported as having organized throughout the country, the pursuit must be enjoying a boom. Many of these societies, I fear, exist mostly on paper, and their life will be even shorter than the mushroom. In order to organize a society which will be permanent, a town must have a goodly number of live collectors. A dozen or even more is not enough, as after a few meetings experience has taught that hardly fifty per cent. of the membership will attend regularly, and when but four or five show up to a meeting, unless they are real dyed-in-the-wool philatelists, then that society is doomed.

Collectors of post cards will be pleased to learn that Mr. George H. Watson is engaged in the compilation of a new catalogue to be issued in six or seven parts of thirty-two pages each. The price of the whole when completed will be two dollars, and only two hundred copies will be issued.

Corwin is now having things all his own way in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, and a disgraceful magazine he is making it—*Philatelic Era*.

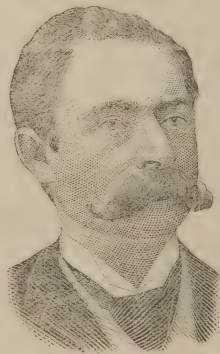
This is a case where a man lets his dislike overcome his judgment. Corwin may not be a saint—few of us are—but as a hard-working philatelist, a capable and efficient editor, and a man gifted with a goodly supply of brains, his worst enemies—it he has any such—will give him credit. Outside of the dealers, I believe there is not a man in this country who spends the amount of time in the study of stamps as does C. B. Corwin.

The *Maritime Philatelist* is a new paper from Nova Scotia,

and the opening editorial strikes me as something out of the usual run. It says: "With this number we hope to commence a friendship which will be everlasting." The editor is evidently laboring under the impression that we shall collect stamps in the world beyond, but the puzzle will be how to carry our present collections there.

It is strange that so many stamp papers are announced which never appear. There was one paper announced nearly two years ago for which I unfortunately wrote one article, but as yet the sheet has not showed up, although it has been re-announced several times. The article will be like a ghost when it does appear, and I apprehend that it will be somewhat ancient.

In some of the stamp societies there is evidently a strong objection towards admitting dealers to membership, and a valid excuse was given for this sentiment by a member a short time ago. There are many varieties of certain stamps of which some collectors have a greater knowledge than the dealers, and when these varieties are shown at a society meeting, and the points regarding them explained, the dealers, to use a slang phrase, "catch on," and immediately afterwards raise the price on these specimens, having learned their rarity. This is to the disadvantage of the collector, hence the objection toward admitting them to the councils of collectors. Many cases of this kind have been cited, and the objection seems to have a good foundation. The moral is: Don't give points to a dealer.



C. F. Rothfuchs.

THIS month we present our readers with the photograph of one of the best known stamp men in the country.

His face may not be familiar, but the name is a by-word wherever collectors are found.

He started as a collector way back in 1859, and his interest continued for about eight years. He then dropped it, and it was not taken up again until 1881, since which time he has been one of the most persistent followers of the philatelic goddess.

Like the majority of collectors, he launched out into the stamp business in 1885, making a specialty of United States department stamps, and the number of these that have passed through his hands would make a collector turn green with envy.

Being at the nation's capital where these stamps were mostly used, he had means and methods of obtaining them that have not been open to the outside world, and these opportunities were not allowed to slip by.

He is forty years of age, and at present devotes his whole time to the stamp trade, which, by liberal advertising, has grown to large proportions.

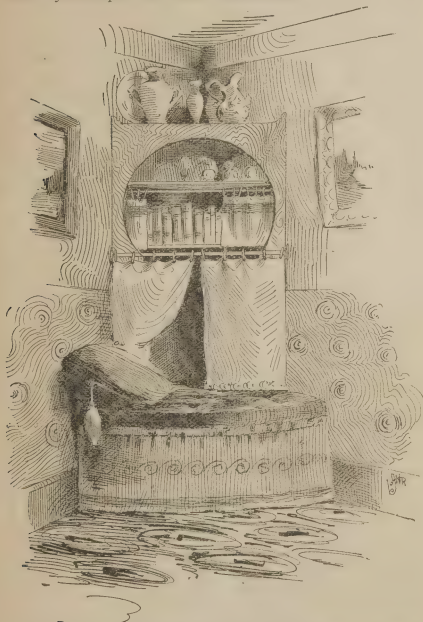
Socially he is one of the best of men, and to know him is to call him friend. Visitors to Washington who call on him will depart feeling that they have seen a representative philatelist, and one whom they will be glad to see again.

HOW TO DO IT.

Original contributions solicited for this page. Send sketches, no matter how rough, with descriptions, and when possible, illustrations will be made.

An Attractive Corner Mantel.

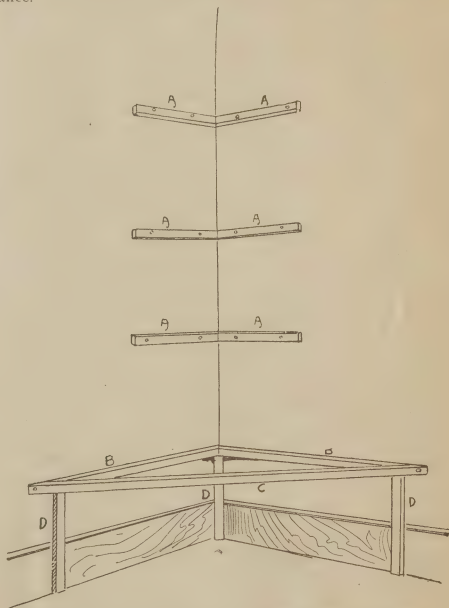
WITH this number we present to our readers a handsome adornment for a bedroom or a model for an artistic corner piece. Aside from the fact that it is a beautiful and useful article of furniture, it can be easily and cheaply made at home, and when neatly finished will rival one manufactured by an expert on interior decorations.



There is a deep fascination in creating and arranging home decorations to those who are lovers of that which is beautiful and pleasing to the eye, and we know of no field which presents such a scope and opportunity for display of decorative talent, as does this grand province, rich in its possibilities for development. There is a certainty that much, through personal exertion, coupled with a slight degree of skill and taste, can be accomplished, and it is an excellent reason why many more should be induced to apply themselves in this particular direction. We take especial pride in an article of our own production, notwithstanding any claim to merit it may possess, and whether the subject is a decorated piece of bric-a-brac, a painting, a piece of embroidered work, or one of service it is far more precious than that which may be purchased. The cost, too, is trifling, if the item of making is excepted. There are frequently a few spare hours during the day and evening, in which time many articles that serve to adorn and brighten the home can be made.

The plan herewith shown is the conception of Mr. A. N. Roberts, a designer of interior decoration, who is well and favorably known in art circles. The corner piece is simple of construction and can be elaborately draped or not as suits the maker. A diagram is added which will aid in making the frame work. A A A A A are strips of white or yellow pine, eighteen inches in length and one and one-half inches

in width, which are screwed to the wall. B B are two strips of the same thickness, four feet long. D D D are three up-rights supporting B B and resting upon the floor. C is a cross piece of the same thickness as A A, extending from B to B. Make the shelving of three-quarter inch poplar and the seat of the divan one inch poplar. The panelling should be made of any wood susceptible of a high finish. The oval shape is an attractive one, but other designs can be used. With a scroll saw some very pretty styles of fret work can be wrought upon the panel. A veneering of bird's eye maple would look exceedingly well and enhance its appearance.



In draping the divan there will be found countless effective styles; soft pillows of eider down covered with china silk, the cover to the divan of any soft neutral tinted brocades finished with heavy cord of harmonizing shades will be a pretty finish to this cozy nook. The divan to fill the ideal should be comfortable as well as pleasing to the eye, therefore procure the single spiral springs that can be readily bought for a few cents at any furniture manufactory; nail cleats on the inside of divan frame, set in at least one-half dozen of these springs, place over a good thick layer of sea moss, which can be procured for eight cents a pound, and over this again at intervals of six inches, fasten broad straps of bed-ticking to hold the moss in position. The divan is now ready for the cover and pillows.

The shelves offer a most convenient resting place for odd bits of bric-a-brac such as old pieces of quaint china, pretty bits of glass, a painted plaque, a rose jar, etc. These ornaments need not be expensive, but they should be either artistically pretty or ugly, as the case may be. The interior of the oval can be lined with crimson silk which will offer a pretty bit of color and a good background for the bric-a-brac at the same time.

The design given is practical, and can be made at home by any one who can handle a saw and hammer. The panel can be finished with Lincrusta-Walton if preferred, or a floral design can be painted directly on the wood.—JOHN W. LANGSTON, in *Home Art*, Chicago.

NATURAL HISTORY.

WILL. H. PLANK, EDITOR.

Correspondence desired from all. Articles on Natural History desired from all. Address W. H. Plank, Kansas City, Kansas, or Springfield, Mo.

The Honest Old Toad.

O H, a queer little chap is the honest old toad,
A funny old fellow is he;
Living under the stone by the side of the road,
'Neath the shade of the old willow tree.
He is dressed all in brown from his toe to his crown,
Save his vest, that is silvery white.
He takes a long nap in the heat of the day,
And walks in the cool dewy night.
"Raup yaup," says the frog,
From his home in the bog.
But the toad he says never a word;
He tries to be good, like the children who should
Be seen, but never be heard.

When winter draws near, Mr. Toad goes to bed,
And sleeps just as sound as a top;
But when May blossoms follow soft April showers,
He comes out with a skip, jump, and hop.
He changes his dress only once, I confess,—
Every spring; and his old worn-out coat,
With trousers and waistcoat, he rolls in a ball,
And stuffs the whole thing down his throat.
"K-rruk, k-rruk," says the frog
From his home in the bog,
But the toad he says never a word;
But he tries to be good, like the children who should
Be seen, but never be heard.

—Our Dumb Animals.

The Prehistoric Horse.

THERE was once a little animal,
No bigger than a fox,
And on five toes he scampered
Over Tertiary rocks.
They called him Eohippus,
And they called him very small,
And they thought him of no value
When they thought of him at all.
For the lumpish Dinoceras
And Coryphodont so slow
Were the heavy aristocracy
In the days of long ago.
Said the little Eohippus:
"I am going to be a horse!
And on my middle finger nails
To run my earthly course!
I'm going to have a flowing tail!
I'm going to have a mane!
I'm going to stand fourteen hands high
On the psychozoic plain!"
The Coryphodont was horrified,
The Dinoceras shocked;
And they chased young Eohippus,
But he skipped away and mocked.
Then they laughed enormous laughter,
And they groaned enormous groans,
And they bade young Eohippus
"Go and view your father's bones!"
Said they: "You always were as
Low and small as now we see,
And therefore it is evident
You're always going to be!"

"What! Be a great and handsome beast
With hoofs to gallop on!
Why you'd have to change your nature!"
Said the Loxolophodon.
They considered him disposed of,
And retired with gait serene—
That was the way they argued
In "the early eocene."

—Charlotte Perkins Stetson in *The Nationalist*.

Insect Parasites.

"Big fleas have little fleas to bite 'em,
And so on ad infinitum."

I HAVE been much interested in the verification of the above couplet in the case of the common house fly. I have noticed that nearly every other fly is infested with one or more little bright scarlet parasites. As many as twenty of these minute vermin have been found upon a single fly. They insert their proboscis into some vulnerable part of the fly and then hang on with a death like grip. These little fellows may be scraped off with a scalpel, or other finely pointed instrument, upon white paper, when they may be easily seen with the unassisted eye. They are generally alive and crawl about on the surface of the paper. Another mode of dislodging these wicked little creatures is to decapitate the fly and drop him in a saucer of turpentine when the mites will immediately leave the body of the fly, as "rats leave a sinking ship." They may be easily mounted in balsam by soaking them for half an hour in oil of cloves. It will not do to soak them in turpentine as this medium destroys the bright color. These parasites belong to the genus *Acarus* and have but six legs, though most of the genus are blest with eight legs. They are especially numerous in the fall.—L. A. WILSON, *Cleveland, Ohio*.

A Deaf Ox.

A FARMER near Chebanse, Ill., noticing that one of his oxen did not obey orders as readily as of yore, concluded it had become deaf. *An ear-trumpet* was tried with great success, and it is now fastened in place by wires around one of the horns. The animal shows gratitude, and eats heartily, whereas it had before lost its appetite.—*Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*.

The Mystery of Fish Life.

CHARLES B. PALMER thus writes to *Science*: "The Peninsula of Florida contains innumerable isolated ponds varying from a few square rods to many square miles in area. Many of these are simple hollows filled with rain water, without any connection with other waters. Some of them are on high ground, where no flood can establish temporary connection with other waters, through which the fish might be admitted. The smaller ones often dry up entirely in seasons of drought, yet when filled with water they do not seem to be behind their neighbors in population. They all swarm with fish, whose origin and continued presence would seem to present an interesting question. For instance, at Orange Heights, in Eastern Alachua County, which is one of the most elevated regions of the state, as is plainly shown by the radiating streams which rise in the vicinity, there is a small pond on top of the highest elevation in all that region. I have twice known this pond to be dry, yet it now contains an abundance of small fish. How have they been preserved from destruction, and whence came the original stock?"

How to Pack Birds' Eggs.

ALWAYS use strong boxes, well made from some light material. Cigar boxes, if well made, answer the purpose very well. The large sizes we do not consider as safe as the smaller ones. Should the cover fit inside of the end pieces of the box, nail a small cleat across each end on the inside, thereby preventing any possibility of the cover breaking in and crushing the contents, which would otherwise almost invariably happen from the rough usage which the box is sure to receive in the mails. Having prepared a suitable box for the specimens, proceed to pack them by wrapping each egg carefully in a small roll of cotton. The eggs thus wrapped can then be packed in layers, snugly, but not tightly, in the box.

A Curious Experiment.

FILL a saucer with water, drop a small piece of potassium into it. Instantly there will be a slight explosion followed by a brilliant violet colored flame, which darting from one side of the vessel to the other will burn for some time. The same substance thrown on ice will also burn readily.

PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MEYVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK, 250 E. Third Street, Chester, Pa.

Answers to Puzzles for January, February and March, though in type, are crowded out this month. They will be printed in June issue.

NOTICE.—No. 10 puzzle was wrongly quoted by the sender. *Beacons* in the first line was wrongly quoted as *beckons*, and *great world* in the third line was wrongly quoted as *people*. However, the puzzlers who answered the puzzle correctly as it appeared in its mystic form have been duly credited with it as being correctly answered.

The contest for Prizes, offering to the subscriber answering the largest number of puzzles, appearing in the issues of January, February and March, a prize of a handsome book; also, a second prize of another book, closed April 10th, 1891, with the following results:

"Blair Athol,"	correctly answered,	24
Albert Pennell,	"	21
"Don,"	"	21
Henry Thos. Ward,	"	20
Mrs. M. M. Sickles,	"	20
"Folderol,"	"	19
"Nemo,"	"	19
Annie Blackie,	"	18
Mrs. T. N. McClelland,	"	18
"Incognito,"	"	17
E. L. H.	"	16
J. W. F.,	"	3
"Santa Claus,"	"	2

"Blair Athol" correctly answering the largest number, receives the first prize.

New Puzzles.

No. 1.

WORD-SQUARE.

1. Manilla-hemp. 2. Under. 3. To form a line, as troops. 4. Adam. 5. Furnished with a long bristle-shaped tip. "SOLO." "WATERMAN, III."

No. 2.

DIAMOND.

1. In shoo. 2. To imitate. 3. Fright. 4. Pertaining to one of the countries of Europe. 5. Ireland's. 6. An abbreviation. 7. In shoo. "LATIO." Nutley, N. J.

No. 3.

METAGRAM.

I am a word of four letters. By changing my first letter you have respectively, an exploit, to defeat, to make hot, tidy, food, an artificial trench. White Plains, N. Y. E. L. H.

No. 4.

PROGRESSIVE HALF-SQUARE.

1. A letter. 2. Behold. 3. A game at cards. 4. Praise (Obs.) 5. Not fastened. 6. To free from restraint. Cedar Rapids, Ia. "NEMO."

No. 5.

DOUBLE WORD ENIGMA.

In pawnbroker and watchmaker, In drawn-croaker and botch baker, In boarding-house and boiled rats, In stewed mouse and soiled hats.

I could not keep my WHOLE intact, If I did not PRIME upon my means— fact:

And to keep up with the present fashion
fad,
One must have a LAST for every little
gad.
Jersey City, N. J. "INCOGNITO."

Prize.

Any one of our "Best Books." The above-named prize will be awarded on the following plan: If an even number of correct answers are received, the prize will be sent to the one sending the first; if an odd number, to the one sending the middle correct answer, unless divisible by five, when it will be given for the last correct answer.

Answers to puzzles appearing in this issue will be published in the July number, and answers will be received up to June 10th, but no answer received after that date will count.

Palaver.

From "INCOGNITO."

Friend "Fisco,"—I enclose you the sketch about puzzles; it is a little longer than I intended it should be, but you can divide into two issues. I wish to see your department stocked with the best material in the market, and all encouragement given to beginners. I shall soon get up a contest among puzzlers for best productions, and offer a prize. I do not agree with "Folderol" that there is any guess work about puzzles of that nature. To me it is the most interesting one of all.—Fraternally yours,

"INCOGNITO."

Part of the sketch about puzzles by "Incognito" will be published in the next number. The balance will appear in the July issue.

Extract from a Letter received from Mrs. McClelland.

I see "Folderol" in the March number speaks, if I may say so, somewhat disrespectfully of the anagrams. I wonder if he ever tried to form one. I think it a great deal easier to write a dozen squares and diamonds than one really good anagram. And then as to the solution, it is never guess work but mathematical demonstration, so beautifully exact as to require just every letter, no more, no less.—Yours very respectfully,
MARY McCLELLAND.

As a journal of cryptography, *The Key*, conducted by Correll Kendall, Box 2137, Boston, Mass., is a fine specimen. The publisher announces in the April number that, commencing with next month, it will be enlarged to the same size as the *Study*, and the late *Thedon* and issued monthly.

In a recent letter received from "Nemo," the young lady states that *The Youth's Guide* has suspended, to resume publication in better and enlarged form January, 1892. Its subscriptions are to be filled by *The Youth's Delight*, Fruitport, Mich., and most probably "Perplexities" will continue to appear in that paper.

The Cincinnati Nonpareil, Cincinnati, O., now contains a department devoted to puzzlers.

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: FIRST—Brevity. SECOND—Clearness of statement. THIRD—Decisive knowledge of what is wanted. FOURTH—The desirability of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

CONCISE HISTORY OF UNITED STATES.

ANSWER to R. W. B.—Sherwood's Concise History of the United States can be had by applying to Col. John D. Sherwood, Stone Lodge, Englewood, N. J. The subscriber who furnishes this information, does not give the price of the book. Another subscriber writes that John B. Alden, 393 Pearl St., New York can supply the book, but a careful reading of his catalogue fails to reveal any mention of the book.

WORD HUNT WINNERS.

Subscribers are sometimes anxious to get early information, of the result of the different contests, and this opportunity is taken to say that those who win are notified by mail as soon as the contest has closed, and the final lists have been examined; so if any contest does not hear within a very few days after the date of closing, he may safely conclude that he is like the boy who fell out of the balloon, and should gird up his loins for the next contest.

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS.

C. D. G., Enosburgh.—Your letter came too late for a full answer this month. In the June issue we will try to have an article which will give you the desired points. Go on with your work of observation. Knowledge obtained by one's efforts is the most valuable of all.

WHO ELSE WANTS IT?

Mrs. E. E. Inslee, Lobdell, La., Writes: "The time has come when deep voiced men do call me 'Mother,' and much of 'the dust from the road of life' has settled on my hair," but I am interested in PLAIN TALK in its every department, and only wish there might be a Botanical Annex.

INSTRUCTIVE BOOKS.

Mrs. Inslee also writes; The last number of the "Swiss Cross," contained part of a story called "The Young Geologists," I think. Has it ever been published as a book?

I would like to know also if W. H. G. Kingston's story "In the Wilds of Africa," has ever been published as a book. I read it as a serial, and thought it one of the most instructive stories I had ever seen. Let me recommend Kingston to the young folks. He is anything but dry, but at the same time instructive and pure.

SUNDRY TOPICS.

V. B. A., Pola, Kas.: I have in my possession a copy of the "Saturday Courier," published in Philadelphia in 1844, two copies of the "Democratic Republican," published in N. H. in 1836, also six Ohio Lottery tickets of 1845. Are these specimens of any value, if so about what?

We doubt if these articles have any special value, unless you can chance upon some collector who is especially interested in these lines. You might try our exchange column.

C. M. Mendocino, Cal., (1) Gen. Beauregard may be addressed at Canal Street, New Orleans.

(2) The five chief cities of the world are as follows, the year giving the date of last official census: London, 1881, 3,816,483 (now estimated); 4,341,738; Paris, 1886, 2,344,550; New York, 1890, 1,719,715; Canton, estimated, 1,600,000; Vienna, 1889, 1,350,000.

(3) Robert T. Lincoln, of Illinois represents the United States in Great Britain.

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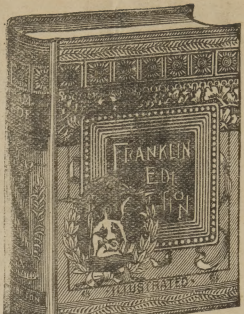
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